

CIHR Project Grant Workshop: Special Considerations during Application Development (including Sex & Gender Considerations in Health Research)

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August 21, 2023

Project Grant Fall 2023 Updates and Reminders

What you need to know for the Fall 2023 Project Grant competition...

- ✓ **Artificial intelligence and grant writing:** CIHR wishes to remind the community that, while AI has its place in health research, applicants are responsible for writing their applications themselves. This extends to written reviews as well. The use of artificial intelligence is a rapidly evolving issue, and we are already working with our Tri-agency colleagues on how best to provide consistent guidance to the Canadian research community on this matter.
- ✓ **Font and formatting:** In order to ensure that all applicants have exactly the same amount of space to present their research proposals, it is now mandatory that all applications be written using Times New Roman font. As in previous competitions, applications should be written in 12-point black font. Smaller text in tables, charts, figures and graphs is acceptable, as long as it is legible when the page is viewed at 100%.
- ✓ **Funding for Priority Announcements and bridge grants:** Priority Announcements (PAs) and bridge grants serve as additional sources of potential funding for applications submitted to the Project Grant competition. As committees focus their discussions on the most competitive applications, more excellent applications are being streamlined. That is why some streamlined applications that are highly ranked may now be eligible for funding via PAs or as bridge grants.
- ✓ **Safeguarding your research:** As you may know, the [Government of Canada has directed the granting agencies to take an enhanced security posture](#) to protect Canadian-led research from being stolen, used or adapted in ways that may be harmful to Canada and its allies. More guidance on research security will be coming later this year. In the meantime, we refer our applicants to these [guidelines and tools to help safeguard your research](#).
- ✓ **Simultaneous interpretation:** We are working to remove all barriers to accessing funding, including linguistic barriers. To increase the confidence of Francophone applicants in the review process, we currently translate one-page research summaries of applications submitted in French in advance of committee meetings. As well, we also translate reviews in cases where reviews are submitted in the opposite official language of the application.
- ✓ **The San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment:** When CIHR signed on to the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA) in 2019, we were reaffirming our commitment to ensuring a wide range of research results and outcomes are valued as part of the peer review process. We encourage applicants to highlight a broad range of outputs in the [Most Significant Contributions](#) section of their applications. We also require that peer reviewers assess productivity broadly (i.e., not just based on publications) and to consider an applicant's career stage and leave history. [Learn more about DORA at CIHR](#).

Resources:

[What you need to know for the Fall 2023 Project Grant competition - Message from the Vice-President and Associate Vice-President, Research Programs - CIHR \(cibr-irsc.gc.ca\)](#)

Sex and Gender Based Analysis (SGBA): Considerations in Health- Related Research

CIHR Peer Review: Policy

- ✓ Purpose of SGBA: To promote rigorous science that is sensitive to sex and gender, thereby expanding our understanding of health determinants for all peoples.
- ✓ CIHR expects that all applicants will integrate sex and gender into their ***research design, methods, analysis and interpretation, and/or dissemination of findings*** within their research proposal, when applicable.

Resources:

[Progress Update: SGBA in Action at CIHR – CIHR \(cihr-irsc.gc.ca\)](https://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/en/progress-update-sgba-in-action-at-cihr)

[Peer review: Policies and procedures - CIHR \(cihr-irsc.gc.ca\)](https://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/en/peer-review-policies-and-procedures)

[Science is better with sex and gender - CIHR \(cihr-irsc.gc.ca\)](https://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/en/science-is-better-with-sex-and-gender)

CIHR Peer Review: Procedures

- ✓ Project Grant reviewers are asked to provide the following (including notes):
 - ✓ Please indicate your appraisal of the integration of sex as a biological variable as a strength, weakness, or not applicable to the proposal.
 - ✓ Please indicate your appraisal of the integration of gender as a socio-cultural determinant of health as a strength, weakness, or not applicable to the proposal.
- ✓ Reviewers are **required** to include their assessment of whether SGBA is appropriate for the research being proposed.
 - ✓ The **overall application score and written evaluation** will reflect if SGBA has been suitably addressed in the research proposed.

Resources:

[Assessing Sex and Gender Integration in Peer Review – YouTube](#)
[Peer review - CIHR \(cihr-irsc.gc.ca\)](http://cihr-irsc.gc.ca)

Registration/Application Details

✓ Task 2: Enter Proposal Information (Sub-task: Details)

- ✓ Is sex as a biological variable taken into account in the research design, methods, analysis and interpretation, and/or dissemination of findings? Y/N
- ✓ Is gender as a socio-cultural factor taken into account in the research design, methods, analysis and interpretation, and/or dissemination of findings? Y/N
- ✓ If yes, please describe how sex and/or gender considerations will be integrated into your research proposal (limit of 2,000 characters).
- ✓ If no, please explain why sex and/or gender are not applicable to your research proposal (limit of 2,000 characters).
- ✓ **NOTE:** Available during Registration AND Application stages

✓ Task 7: Attach Other Application Material (Optional)

- ✓ Certificate of Completion for the sex- and gender-based analysis [training modules](#) for the NPA
- ✓ **NOTE:** Available during Application stage only

Resources:

[Project Grant – Registration Instructions - CIHR \(cihr-irsc.gc.ca\)](#)

[Project Grant: Application Instructions - CIHR \(cihr-irsc.gc.ca\)](#)

CIHR Checklists ([Biomedical](#) & [Research with Human Participants](#))

SGBA in your application: Strengths & Weaknesses

Strengths:		Weaknesses:	
✓	Weave description of SGBA throughout your proposal	✗	ONLY address SGBA in the sex and/or gender textbox.
✓	<u>Understand and use</u> sex and gender <u>terminology</u> correctly	✗	Conflate sex and gender terminology
✓	Know the “real world” representation of sex and/or gender in your field of study	✗	Ignore this representation or fail to build on published data in your field
✓	Show reviewers you will be able to disaggregate and report results by sex and/or gender	✗	Fail to provide a strong justification for a single-sex study
✓	Include knowledge translation tools that will reach diverse audiences	✗	Fail to report sex of cells, tissues, animals or humans
✓	Seek out and identify sex and gender champions to strengthen your team	✗	Don't report results by sex and/or gender where applicable

Resources

- ✓ CIHR [Training Modules](#)
- ✓ CIHR Checklists ([Biomedical](#) & [Research with Human Participants](#))
- ✓ CIHR Sex and Gender in Health Research [Factsheets](#)
- ✓ USask [Grants Repository](#)
- ✓ Work with your Research Facilitator (click on this [link](#) and search by discipline)
- ✓ SCPOR: [Sex and Gender in Health Research](#)
 - ✓ Resource: [Checklist for Integrating Sex and Gender Considerations](#)

Indigenous Health Research

CIHR defines Indigenous Health Research as...

- ✓ Any research topic or area related to health and wellness that is:
 - ✓ Conducted by...
 - ✓ Grounded in...
 - ✓ Engaged with...
 - ✓ First Nations, Inuit, or Metis communities, societies, individuals.
- ✓ Embracing Indigenous wisdoms, cultures, experiences, and/or knowledge systems
- ✓ Respectful engagement and equitable opportunities for meaningful and culturally safe health research

Peer Review: Indigenous Health Research Committee

- ✓ A proposal's central focus should be to carry out meaningful and culturally safe research involving Indigenous Peoples with the intent to promote health through research that is in keeping with Indigenous values and traditions.
- ✓ The proposal must also explicitly describe engagement with the community in relation to the research, as required by the TCPS 2 - Chapter 9 on Research Involving the First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples of Canada and Indigenous partnering community/organization ethical guidelines
- ✓ **NOTE: IHRC may deem your application eligible for the Iterative Peer Review Process.**

Registration/Application Details

- ✓ To be considered for IHR Committee, you MUST complete the following steps at **registration stage**:
 - ✓ Task 2: Enter Proposal Information (Sub-task: Details)
 - ✓ Select 'yes' to the question regarding the TCPS 2 – Chapter 9 (“*Does your proposal address the [TCPS 2 - Chapter 9 Research Involving the First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples of Canada](#) and Indigenous partnering community/organizational ethical guidelines?*”);
 - ✓ Provide a detailed justification in the related text field (2000 characters) to indicate how the proposal addresses the principles of the TCPS 2 – Chapter 9;
 - ✓ Task 5: Complete Peer Review (Sub-task: Suggested Committees)
 - ✓ Select the Indigenous Health Research (IHR) committee as the first suggested peer review committee and provide the mandatory justification (750 characters) for why your application fits within this committee.

Please note that if you completed the above steps for your registration, your research proposal must also explicitly describe how you will engage with the Indigenous community in relation to the research at the application stage.

Resources

- ✓ [Indigenous Health Research - CIHR \(cihr-irsc.gc.ca\)](https://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/en/indigenous-health-research)
- ✓ [Defining Indigenous Health Research - CIHR \(cihr-irsc.gc.ca\)](https://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/en/defining-indigenous-health-research)
- ✓ [Action Plan: Building a healthier future for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples - CIHR \(cihr-irsc.gc.ca\)](https://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/en/action-plan-building-a-healthier-future-for-first-nations-inuit-and-metis-peoples)
- ✓ SCPOR:
 - ✓ <https://www.scpor.ca/s/IRLET-2022.pdf>
 - ✓ https://www.scpor.ca/s/IRLET-Companion-Document_2022.pdf

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) in Research

What are the benefits of EDI in research?

- ✓ Better research outcomes because EDI practices:
 - ✓ Engage a more extensive, representative, and diverse pool of talent
 - ✓ Increase spectrum of ideas and insights to broaden and vastly improve chances of producing breakthrough discoveries and innovation
 - ✓ Increase creativity, productivity, engagement, and innovation
- ✓ Increases availability of diverse role models
- ✓ Improves recruitment and retention

Tri-Agency EDI Action Plan (2018-2025)

- Purpose: To foster a more equitable, diverse and inclusive research ecosystem in Canada that creates a culture where EDI considerations into all aspects of research is second nature.
- Objectives:
 - Fair access to Tri-Agency research support
 - Equitable participation in the research system
- NOTE: While Indigenous Peoples in Canada are equity-deserving groups that can be supported by an EDI strategy, researchers co-creating with Indigenous communities have responsibilities, expectations, and obligations to undertake research-related activities in ways that ***extend well beyond*** those identified under the principles of EDI.

What can you do as a researcher?

- ✓ Create an EDI Strategy that is comprehensive, team specific, and actionable beyond the scope of one grant
- ✓ Things to consider:
 - ✓ What are the known EDI challenges in your field of research and institution?
 - ✓ Seek out information about equity-deserving groups, inclusive excellence, known systemic barriers.
 - ✓ Determine the specific actions and practices your team will undertake/develop/support/advocate for to address these challenges.
- ✓ Examine: team composition, recruitment and retainment practices, mentorship and PD opportunities, community engagement practices, potential impact of research

<https://vpresearch.usask.ca/rasi/resource-hub/edi-equity-diversity-inclusion.php>

Resources

- ✓ USask [EDI](#) resources
- ✓ [Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans – TCPS 2 \(2018\) – Chapter 4: Fairness and Equity in Research Participation \(ethics.gc.ca\)](#)
- ✓ [NSERC - Action Plan \(nserc-crsng.gc.ca\)](#)
- ✓ [Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in the Research System - CIHR \(cihr-irsc.gc.ca\)](#)
- ✓ [Equity, Diversity and Inclusion \(EDI\) in Action at CIHR - CIHR \(cihr-irsc.gc.ca\)](#)
- ✓ [Best Practices in Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in Research \(sshrc-crsh.gc.ca\)](#)
- ✓ [Guide for Applicants EN.pdf \(nserc-crsng.gc.ca\)](#)

Research Data Management (RDM)

Tri-Agency Research Data Management (RDM) Policy

- ✓ Research data collected through the use of public funds should be responsibly and securely managed and be available for reuse by others (where ethical, legal and commercial obligations allow).
- ✓ The Tri-Agencies support the **FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable)** guiding principles for research data management and stewardship
- ✓ The diversity of models of scientific and scholarly inquiry that advance knowledge means there will be differences in the standards for RDM among the disciplines, areas of research, and modes of inquiry that the agencies support.
 - ✓ For example, data related to research by and with First Nations, Inuit, Métis or Urban Indigenous communities whose traditional and ancestral territories are in Canada must be managed in accordance with principles developed and approved by those communities. This includes, but is not limited to, considerations of Indigenous data sovereignty, as well as data collection, ownership, protection, use, and sharing.

[Tri-Agency Research Data Management Policy - Science.gc.ca](https://science.gc.ca)

[Research Data Management - Office of the Vice President Research - Research | University of Saskatchewan \(usask.ca\)](https://research.usask.ca)

[Tri-Agency Research Data Management Policy - Frequently Asked Questions \(science.gc.ca\)](https://science.gc.ca)

What can you do as a researcher?

- ✓ Grant applications should include methodologies that reflect best practices in RDM
- ✓ Researchers should consider developing a [data management plan](#) (DMP) that describes:
 - ✓ How data will be collected, documented, formatted, protected, and preserved
 - ✓ Whether and how data will be shared
 - ✓ Where data will be deposited and/or stored
 - ✓ How existing datasets will be used and the new data that will be created
 - ✓ Who is responsible for managing project data (team responsibilities)
 - ✓ Ethical, legal, and commercial constraints related to data sharing

Resources

- ✓ [Home - Research Data Management - Research Guides at University of Saskatchewan \(usask.ca\)](#)
- ✓ [Tri-Agency Research Data Management Policy - Science.gc.ca](#)
- ✓ [Frequently Asked Questions Tri-Agency Research Data Management Policy - Science.gc.ca](#)
- ✓ [GO FAIR initiative: Make your data & services FAIR \(go-fair.org\)](#)
- ✓ [Research Data Management | Digital Research Alliance of Canada \(alliancecan.ca\)](#) (Tool: DMP Assistant)

Thank you!